

Dr Jennifer-Scott Mobley

Assistant Professor, School of Theatre and Dance

Scholar-Teacher Award Portfolio Highlights

Philosophy

- *I am an interdisciplinary scholar and theatre practitioner with research interests in dramaturgy, feminist theatre, and cultural studies including, women's roles as playwrights, performers, and directors as well as "fat" in performance, specifically with respect to the way meaning develops in and around women's bodies in motion and across genres of representation. I am interested in exploring theatre as cultural text and all the opportunities that presents for interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship. Just as I see my theatre classes as an opportunity to encourage students to question cultural assumptions and explore alternative perspectives through theatre, I view my scholarship as an ongoing analysis of theatre's role in both the creation and interrogation of culture.*

Scholarship Highlights

- Invited Guest Editor *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society*, Special Issue on "Fat in Performance," Vol 8: No 3 (Fall 2019).
- *Performing Dream Homes: Theater and the Spatial Politics of the Domestic Sphere*, co-edited with Emily Klein and Jill Stevenson. New York, Palgrave Macmillan, January 2019. (*nominated for the 2020 ATHE Excellence in Editing Award).
- *Lesbian and Queer Plays from The Jane Chambers Prize* co-edited with Maya E. Roth, New York, NOPASSPORT Press, 2019.
- "Melodrama, Sensation, and Activism in Ruined" in *Lynn Nottage Anthology*, Jocelyn Buckner ed., Routledge 2016.
- *Female Bodies on the American Stage: Enter Fat Actress*, New York, Palgrave MacMillan, 2014.

Lesbian & Queer Plays from the Jane Chambers Prize

Edited by Maya E. Roth
and Jennifer-Scott Mobley

Lesbian & Queer Plays from the Jane Chambers Prize

Edited by Maya E. Roth and Jennifer-Scott Mobley
Preface by Jill Dolan and Afterword by Sara Warner

This volume, the first of two, features five recent winners of the Jane Chambers Prize:

UNSPEAKABLE ACTS by Mary F. Casey
FULL SELF by Claire Chazee
THE SIRELS OF MONTAUK by Meryl Cohn
A LIVE DRESS by MJ Kaufman
FEMMES by Gina Young

Honored for their feminist perspectives and artistic excellence, these five Award-winning plays feature central challenging roles for women, a hallmark of the Jane Chambers Prize. Written by four women and a genderqueer playwright, they experiment with form in playful, bold ways. All are published here for the first time, accompanied by playwright interviews and original essays.

"The prize-winning plays in this volume are elegant and far-seeing, fearless and hot. Worlds unto themselves, they constellate compellingly around the "center" of the American theater, sounding forgotten chords of history, firing off warning shots, and sending up flares of beauty from the margins. May they take their rightful place on the stages of America soon—immediately—now."

— Madeleine George, Winner of a Whiting Award (2016), the Jane Chambers Prize (2004), and a Pulitzer Finalist for Drama (2014)

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Through the work of Jane Chambers, I read and interact with the professional field such that I am well-positioned to expose students to an array of playwrights and playwriting styles, particularly underrepresented voices.

Service & Mentorship Highlights

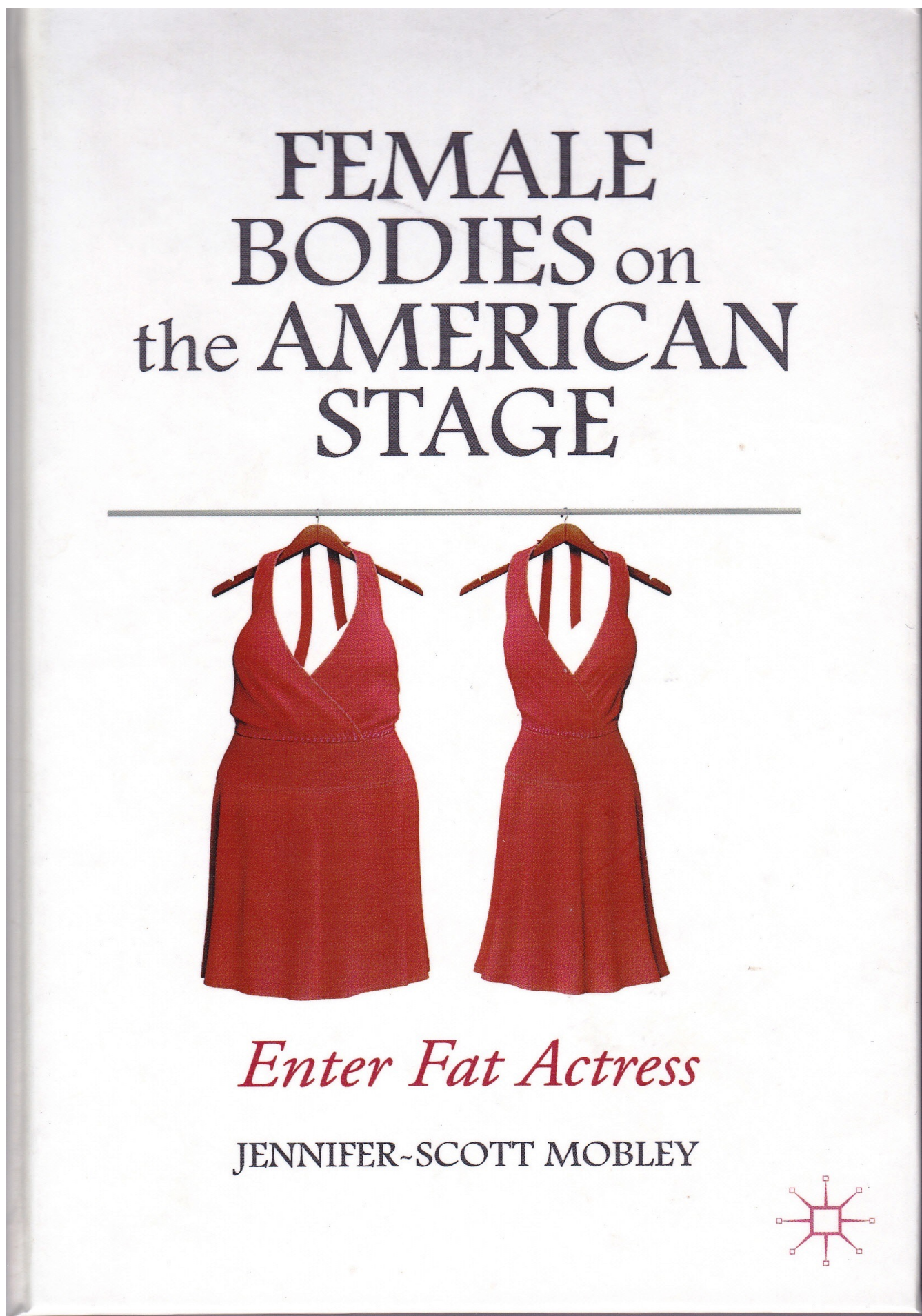
- Vice President Elect for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference (2020-2022)
- Invited Panelist "The Wolves: Mentoring the Next Generation of Women in Leadership," Performing Arts Department, Elon College, NC. (2020)
- Invited Speaker on Leadership in the Creative Arts at Omicron Delta's "Five Pillars Personified" East Carolina University, ECU Campus Center (2019)
- Invited Panelist "Race in Our Space: Race in the Media," East Carolina University Sponsored by The Center For Leadership and Civic Engagement and the Andrew Goodman Foundation for Race in our Space, ECU Campus Center (2018)
- Co-Program Chair of for the American Society of Theatre Research Conference: *Extra/Ordinary Bodies: Interrogating the Aesthetics of Difference*; November 16-19, 2017, Hyatt, Atlanta GA.
- Contributing Panelist to "We're Talking Bodies: Perfect and Other Aberrations," part of the *Downtown Dialogue on the Humanities Series*, Greenville Museum of Art, Greenville, NC. (2016)
- Co-Coordinator Professional Jane Chambers Playwriting Contest (2015-Present)



Interrogating the Performance and Aesthetics of "Difference"
2017 ASTR / TLA Conference
November 16–19
Atlanta, GA

Directing

- *HOW WE SURVIVED* by Pauline David-Sax, 2020 Award Winning Jane Chambers Play ATHE Conference (Virtual)
- *THE WOLVES* by Sarah DeLappe, ECU Archie Burnette Studio Theatre, Greenville NC. (2019)
- *IN THE CERVIX OF OTHERS* by Alice Eve Cohen, 2019 Award Winning Jane Chambers Play ATHE Conference, Orlando, FL.
- *QUEENS* by Martyna Majok 2018 Award Winning Jane Chambers Play ATHE Conference, Boston MA
- *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* by Shakespeare ECU Loessin Playhouse, Greenville NC. (2018)
- *Never Not Once* by Carey Crim, 2017 Award Winning Jane Chambers Play at the ATHE Conference, Las Vegas NV.
- *NO CANDY*, by Emma Stanton, 2016 Award Winning Jane Chambers Play, at ATHE Conference, Chicago, IL.



"*Female Bodies on the American Stage* pierces the heart of representational politics by parsing how body size influences reception. Mobley incisively analyzes the history of social judgments against larger than sylph-like women, and traces how size prohibitions play out in theatre, film, and television. Considering gender alongside race and ethnicity, Mobley elegantly unpacks the pernicious, ongoing policing of women's bodies, and persuasively illustrates the complicity of cultural production in enforcing impossible, demeaning standards for normative beauty."
- Jill Dolan, Professor of English, Director of the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Princeton University, US

Teaching Highlights at ECU

Developed the following courses At ECU:

- Script Analysis
- Theatre for Social Change
- Independent Studies in Dramaturgy and LGBTQ+ Theatre
- Introduction to Dramaturgy (to be taught FA 2021)
- Restructured Theatre History-Literature Sequence from 3 courses to 2 and qualified them for Global Diversity and Domestic Diversity designation per the General Education Instructional Effectiveness Committee

Performing Dream Homes persuasively explores 'home'—a prominent setting in theatre—to investigate domestic space, from the kitchen sink to much broader evocations of private space. It impressively interprets the domestic across narrative, theatrical form, and set design, while also teasing out intricate relationships between public and private sites. These essays strikingly highlight a complex, precarious politics of home to draw new maps of racialized, feminized, and transitional spaces in contemporary and historical theatre.

-Joanne Tompkins, Professor of Theatre, The University of Queensland, Australia

